

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected previous claims 31-42 and 46-57 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as unpatentable over Yamazaki. Claims 43-45 and 58-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Yamazaki combined with Swain.

New claim 62 distinguishes over Yamazaki at least by reciting extracting the endless belt from the container such that as the third cylindrical body is being raised upwardly from the container said wound unit unwinds while it is resting on, being supported by, and slides along said supporting surface structure. To the contrary, as shown in Figure 6 and Figure 7, Yamazaki lays his wound unit 21 having the protruding ends 31A, 31B (Figure 8) resting in round isolated pockets 11B and 11C. As a result, if one were to attempt to extract the endless belt after lifting the top surface 10A or 20C by raising the cylindrical body 31C upwardly the wound unit 21 could not slide across any support surface while it is unwinding. Therefore it is not practical to remove the endless belt from the unit shown in Fig. 7 while using the bottom piece 20D as a support surface during unwinding. Rather the entire endless belt with all three cylindrical bodies must be raised up and there is no support surface in a container for unwinding the wound unit 21. There is also no container in Figures 6 and 7.

Thus the method (and system – see claim 70) of the invention has the advantage of providing a convenient support surface inside a container as the wound unit is being unwound and thus during the unwinding the wound unit is protected inside the container and prevented from being damaged such as being scratched by surrounding surfaces, such as the ground, during unwinding of the wound unit. Such a protected unwinding is not possible in the arrangement of Yamazaki which does

not have a support surface which supports and also permits sliding along during the unwinding of the wound body.

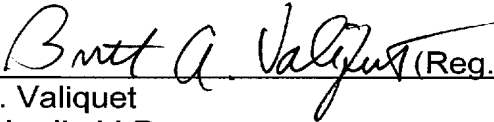
Dependent claims 63-69 distinguish at least for the reasons noted with respect to claim 62.

System claim 70 distinguishes in a similar fashion as claim 62 by reciting that the container has a support surface shaped such that when the third cylindrical body is pulled upwardly during removal from said container said wound unit rests on, is supported by, and slides along said support surface structure during unwinding of the wound unit.

Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to account No. 501519.

Respectfully submitted,



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